

P-4154P1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: MARSH ET AL.

Serial No.:

09/823,199

Art Unit: 1641

Filed:

MARCH 30, 2001

Examiner: A. Y. LAM

For:

VARIABLE EXTENSION COMBINED SPINAL/EPIDRUAL

NEEDLE SET AND METHOD FOR ITS USE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

Sir:

Applicant's Attorney received a Notice of Abandonment mailed February 25, 2004 for the above-identified patent application. It was noted in the Notice of Abandonment that no reply to the office action mailed 17 June 2003 was received. Applicant's Attorney notes that a response was filed on December 5, 2003 requesting a three-month extension of time and a continuation application was filed on that same day.

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Respectfully submitted,

James J. Murtha

Reg. No. 35,769

Becton Dickinson and Company 1 Becton Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 0741-1880 201-847-7160 March 4, 2004 #75387